

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 29-30 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the July 12, 2005 personal interview are gratefully appreciated. The reasons presented during the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-22 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Klein (U.S. Patent No. 6,701,346) in view of David (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,902). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest an electronic information management server and associated method that includes deciding means for deciding whether electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature extracted by feature extracting means and on a condition specified by a client, as recited in independent claims 1-3, 12, 13, 28 and 30. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at, for example, p. 12, lines 23-25.

Klein teaches a system for managing messages so that redundant messages need not be reviewed by a user (Abstract). Moreover, Klein teaches a recipient computer system 150

that includes a Message Receiver component 155 that monitors messages received by the user of the computer system 150 (col. 3, lines 26-30). Moreover, the Message Receiver component 155 compares received messages to other pending messages to identify redundant messages. Accordingly, the only interactions between the user and the system in Klein are 1) when the Message Receiver component 155 monitors messages received by the user based on their redundancy only, and 2) when the Message Presenter component 153 presents the pending messages to the user. However, Klein does not teach that the user sets a condition that specifies electronic information that is to be deleted. Klein's only basis for deletion is the redundancy of a message. A condition for specifying deletion of information may be, for example, when a document is created before a specific date, or when the document is created by a specific document creator. Accordingly, Klein does not disclose or suggest a condition specified by the user on the basis of which deletion of electronic information is decided. As such, Klein fails to disclose or suggest the feature of independent claims 1-3, 12, 13, 28 and 30.

David teaches a method for managing documents in a system comprising at least one electronic data processing installation for processing data by means of at least one data bank (Abstract). However, David fails to cure deficiencies in Klein in disclosing or rendering obvious deciding means for deciding whether electronic information is to be deleted based on a feature extracted by feature extracting means and on a condition specified by a client. As such, the combination of Klein and David would not arrive at the claimed invention.

Because a combination of the applied references would not arrive at the claimed invention, independent claims 1-3, 12, 13, 28 and 30, and their dependent claims, are patentable over a combination of Klein and David. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 14, 2005

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